City crime rate declines

Crime in the city dropped by 3.4 per cent for the first half of this year, including a 25.2 per cent decline in the number of murders, police said Wednesday.

As of July 1, police said 77 murders in Baltimore had been reported, which was 26 less than during the first six months of last year.

Police said the most likely reason for the decline has been the weather — a bitter cold winter and a steamy summer.

Most of the decline occurred during the winter and the early part of the spring, as the statistics show that crime was down 8.5 per cent during the first three months of 1977.

There are seven categories of crime used to compile the index: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

All but two crimes have shown declines. The two exceptions are aggravated assault, up 2.9 per cent and auto theft, up 9.3 per cent.

The number of rapes was down 2.3 per cent, larceny was down 7.1 per cent, and robbery declined 2.2 per cent.

The total number of arrests increased 2.1 per cent and 48.8 per cent of those arrested were juveniles. However, for violent crimes, juveniles accounted for only 23.1 per cent of those arrested.

Siren-less police cars cause fewer accidents

The absence of sirens on Baltimore city police cars is making it harder for the local law enforcement agency to settle accident claims the city solicitor's office said this week.

Sirens were removed from city police cars seven years ago, despite a state law requiring emergency vehicles be equipped with a whistle, bell or siren, according to George A. Itzel, assistant claims manager for the solicitor's office.

Therefore, although police cars can flash their blue lights, they still must obey traffic laws because they do not have sirens. They do not have sirens. Police cars using sirens did not have to obey traffic laws.

"We tried to convince Commissioner Donald Pomerleau, to put the sirens back on the cars, but he has his own ideas about that," Itzel said, complaining that most suits arising from police car accidents must be negotiated.

Police spokesman Dennis Hill said accidents involving police cars have dropped since the sirens were removed.

He said at one time the city had one of the worst accident rates in the nation involving police cars racing to the scene of accidents.

The solicitor's office handles about 1,000 accidents yearly involving police personnel, Itzel said, about half of them occuring as officers answered emergency calls.

Itzel explained that negotiating a settlement when the police car was speeding or running a red light means the city cannot collect for repairs to the police vehicle or medical expenses if an officer is injured.

He said the officer cannot sue the other party for failing to yield to an emergency vehicle if he does not use a siren.

Twenty thousand abortions performed in state in '76

At least 20,000 abortions were performed in Maryland last year and 65 per cent of the women having the operation were unmarried, according to the State Health Department.

The department's statistics also show that 30 per cent of the women getting an abortion were younger than age 20. Twenty - five per cent received government aid to pay for the operation.

The cost of an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy ranged from approximately $125 at clinics to $250 at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

Congress is currently debating a bill that would restrict federal funds for abortions, though Maryland officials say the state would finance the operation if federal funding ends.

A planned parenthood clinic in Baltimore performed 4,028 abortions last year. Thirty of the state's 54 hospitals also offer abortions. Those that do not are either run by the Roman Catholic church or lack proper equipment.

Heat, humidity cause health problems

A Baltimore City Hospital Director says the continued high heat and humidity across Maryland is severe enough to cause an "epidemic of heat - related problems."

Dr. Bernard Slosberg, director of the emergency division at Baltimore City Hospitals, explained that the combination of high heat, high huminity "is the kind of environmental condition which could really precipitate an epidemic of heat - related problems."

The body deals with excesive heat by sweating. When the sweat evaporates it carries away the body heat, Slosberg said.

But the body's natural cooling system does not work when the humidity is high, because the sweat does not evaporate but instead rolls off the skin, according to Slosberg.

So far four patients have been treated for heat - related ailments this week at St. Agnes Hospital. Johns Hopkins has also given medical attention for heat exhaustion.

A spokesman for Baltimore City Hospitals said about five cases of heat - related illnesses are reported a day, most of them are heat exhaustion cases.

Slosberg said there are three different kinds of heat related problems — heat stroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramps.

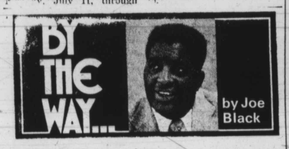
Heat cramps usually occur in the arm and leg muscles.

Consumer courses offered at UB

Courses titled "The Consumer and the Law" and "Buyer Behavior" are among more than 70 classes being offered furing the second summer session for undergraduate students at the University of Baltimore.

The session will run from Monday, July 11, through Friday, August 12, on the downtown campus at Charles St. and Mount Royal Ave.

Summer registration will continue July 11 through 15 in Rooom 110 Charles Hall. Registration hours are 2 to 7 p.m. July 11 and 15, and 2 ti 5 p.m. July 12, 14 and 15.



Our Black newspapers have become an excellent source of information. Of what's currently happening in Black America. What's being done about it. And what isn't.

Each week, I try to read through some fifty Black newspapers. To keep up with all that's happening.

The editorial pages of these papers are my main focus. Because they project the thinking of the real people who make up the Black communities.

The following editorial letter addresses itself to our on-going plea for unity among American Blacks. It was written by Mr. Webb Evans. And appeared in the *Chicago Defender* on March 7, 1977

I'd like to share it with you.

"It is regrettable that so many Black Americans who have been mistreated in a business deal by a Black business owner turn their backs on all Black-owned businesses.

"When I tell people the need for us to support local business in order to help them succeed and improve our community, mahy say, 'I did business with a Black business owner *once* and was not treated right. Therefore, I don't do business with them anymore.'

"If those same persons are mistreated by a white business owner, they don't fall out with all white business people. This type of action seems so unfair to those Black Americans in business who are doing their best to give the public the best in merchandise and services. It can cause a lot of good Black business owners to fail and hinder our total progress.

"At a time when two-thirds of all small businesses are failing, we should unite our efforts, business and non-business people, in order to progress."

How will you respond to this challenge?

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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IS COPPIN BREWING IN TROUBLE AGAIN?

One program receives flat disapproval

Will the teaching certificates obtained from Coppin State College be worth the paper they are printed on?

This is the implied question raised by a top state Department of Education official following evaluation of 12 of the school's 14 teacher-education programs.

Dr. Eugene Huddle, the official who headed the evaluation team that disapproved the school's Social Studies program and gave limited approval to some of the other programs, said students could find themselves faced with problems in trying to obtain their teaching certificates.

"The disapproval of the Social Studies program," said Huddle, "means it will take longer for students to get accredited."

Huddle said students will be forced to try for their certificates on the credit count method rather than through the state approved program.

"The state approved program guarantees automatic certification," he pointed out. "The credit count is more difficult and time consuming."

(Maryland and 30 other states have a inter-state reciprocal teaching certificate through the approved program method. Credit count does not assure recognition by other states.)

The Social Studies program, according to Huddle, was disapproved because "program objectives were not clearly defined.

"They did not present enough data for us to know what the program was about."

The other programs, which ranged from early childhood and elementary education to programs for the handicapped, were given one-to-five-year approval. Most of those programs proposed were done so on the condition that certain improvements were made.

The disapproval of the Social Studies program does not seem to worry Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin.

Burnett said the program's status will not hurt the students.

"We intend to invite them back in January," he said. "That way it will not hurt the student who will graduate in June."

Burnett said in an interview that out of the 60 programs evaluated in the state only 6 were disapproved and one of them was at Coppin.

Goldstein wants tax exemption vetoed

Maryland State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein announced he has asked President Jimmy Carter to veto H.R. 6893, which exempts members of the U.S. Congress from the Maryland Income Tax.

"An individual enjoying and sharing in the benefits of the expenditures by the state and its subdivisions for activities of the government should likewise be liable to share in the taxes levied to maintain them," Mr. Goldstein wrote the President.

The Comptroller dispelled the argument that Congressmen might be required to pay double taxes, saying this was never the case.

Either the state of Maryland or the Congressperson's home state will grant tax credit for taxes paid to the other state.

"In most cases a member of Congress would have to pay only the county income tax, which is Montgomery and Prince George's Counties is levied at a 50 per cent rate," Goldstein said.

Adding that he felt Congress had no constitutional power to enact a bill that would interfere with the reserved powers of the

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Brand M	6	0.5
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Carlton Menthol	less than 1	0.1
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Soft Pack-1 mg. Menthol-less than 1 mg. Box-less than 1 mg.
Soft Pack and Menthol. 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report DEC. '76.
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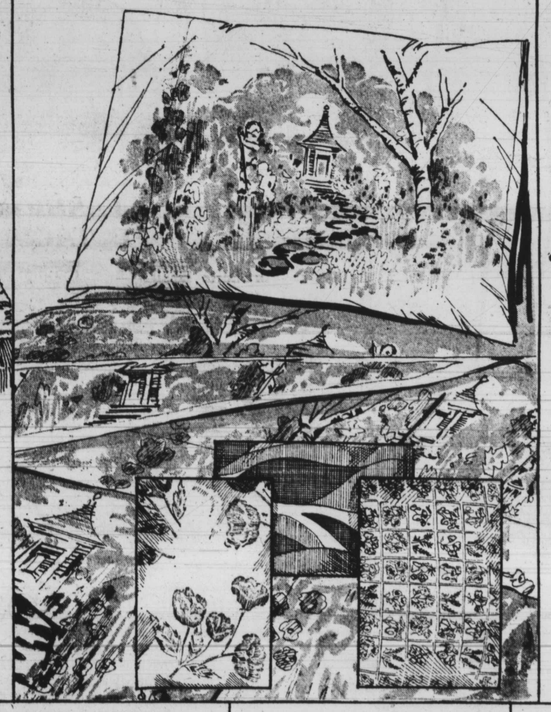

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